



MEMORANDUM

Date: As of 28 February 2015

To: Marine Advisory Committee

From: Charles Mopps, Project Manager

Subject: **March 2015 MSBU Project Update**

Ackerman Waterway: Refer to Manchester Waterway.

Alligator Creek: The project includes the removal of the existing silt to the existing permitted conditions (-5ft MLW) and pursue permits to increase the depth of the Access/Main channel to -6ft MLW via a separate project. Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) is assisting the County with the engineering and permit process. The FDEP permit was received for the -5ft MLW maintenance dredge project. The FDEP permit was received for the -6ft MLW project which includes public interest in the form of purchasing and donating an YSI Water Quality Monitor to the Friends of CHAP. The ACOE has combined the two projects even though they are different in their scope. The ACOE initiated informal consultation with NMFS specific to the smalltooth sawfish mid-February. The ACOE determined the project "*May affect, is not likely to adversely affect*" the sawfish and requested that NMFS concur with their determination in 30 days. CEC and the County will continue to work with the Waterways Committee to advance this through the federal process. CEC and Mr. Minzer will host a field trip with representatives from the federal agencies in the near future towards this goal.

Buena Vista Area Waterways: Johnson Engineering was selected to provide services for project and is currently reviewing the pre-existing permits and documents. They have completed the Survey after having to resurvey some areas and preliminary design is complete. A pre-application meeting was held with the FDEP on July 8. FDEP was not able to issue on behalf of the ACOE. ACOE was supplied the requested information and has initiated consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The 80% Construction plans have been reviewed by staff and the comments for corrections have been received.

Edgewater North: DMK was selected to perform the Survey and Provide estimates of quantities. To restore the system to -4 feet Mean Low Water, 41,000 cubic yards of material would need to be dredged. Estimated cost to complete the work would be \$1.4 Mil. To dredge to -5 feet MLW there would be an estimated 97,500 cubic yards to remove at a cost of about \$3.4 Mil. A mass mailing went out to all the

citizens in that area to sequester their opinion on an increase to their tax to accomplish this project. Staff is awaiting guidance on how to proceed.

Gulf Cove Waterways: The project includes the removal of the existing silt to the previous dredge depth of -4ft MLW within the lateral/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. CEC is assisting the County with the engineering and permit process. The bathymetric surveys of the waterways have been completed. The Preliminary Plan Set has been completed and is under review by County. CEC has proposed an alternate path forward to improve the navigation project will yielding cost savings over time through reduction of maintenance dredging needs. The approach includes collecting additional data to identify combining multiple canals into single channels extending to the river. The County issued a revised task order to Coastal Engineering to proceed with the additional survey and design work. CEC has completed the additional survey and alternate design alignments to create the connector channels. This work was reviewed with the Committee and they gave direction to proceed to expand and enhance the project versus the routine maintenance dredge program. Purchasing has amended the scope of services to reallocate the funds to accomplish this project.

Harbour Heights: A Request through purchasing has been initiated to retain Engineering services to Permit, Survey and Provide Construction Related Services for minor shoaling within the Harbor Heights Waterway System. The Consultant is in the process of gathering survey and permitting data. This phase should be complete with submittal to the permitting agencies in early April 2014. Staff reviewed the 80% design plans with the consultant (Stantec) and permitting strategies were discussed. These strategies should lead to a streamlined process. The permit application was submitted to staff for review the week of April 14, 2014. After review and approval the permit application was submitted on the week of April 21, 2014. The permits were received in May from the agencies. The bid specs have been reviewed and modified. The citizens would like to see some Mangrove trimming added to the contract to ease line of sight and navigation issues. This project has been placed on hold while awaiting the Countywide Permit. Staff has reached out to the ACOE for a status update.

Hayward Canals: No active projects at this time.

Manchester Waterway: No active project at this time.

Northwest Port Charlotte: The dredge project has been completed. The new markers have been installed.

Peace River Shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor: This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge a 2300 feet access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. The bathymetric and seagrass surveys are complete. The jet probe survey and geotechnical report are complete. The updated channel design is complete which proposes a 45-foot wide channel located within the limits of the existing marked channel. Seagrasses exist within the limits of the existing marked channel which will need to be mitigated for due to the dredging impacts. The ERP Permit Application is near complete. The site visit to gather data for the Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) analysis and to search for possible mitigation sites was conducted by CEC and FDEP on October 29. The search for potential mitigation sites did not find enough suitable areas within the vicinity of the project area, thus a wider search area will be examined by CEC using aerial photography. FDEP completed the UMAM ranking on the seagrass impacts from the proposed dredging. CEC has identified four potential sites for creating a seagrass mitigation project (e.g., fill blow-holes / prop-scars). Additional discussions with FDEP are ongoing to confirm the suitability of

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these sites. Upon the start of seagrass growing season, March 1st, CEC will conduct the site visit and field work with the FDEP and ACOE to confirm their acceptability of these sites for use in developing the seagrass mitigation plan. Need to wait for the seagrass growing season to conduct the benthic surveys.

Southbridge Waterway: Project Complete.

South Gulf Cove: A Request for Letters of Interest was submitted to Purchasing to sequester an engineering firm to permit a Boat Turn Basin at the Harbor side portion of the Lock. This work was awarded to Johnson Engineering. Meetings with the permitting agencies have been conducted and the design is complete. The State Parks manager has accepted the placement of the Material at a Placida Location for future use. This location was accepted as the spoil disposal site that will substantially reduce the cost of hauling material. The permit application was submitted to the regulatory agencies and the FDEP permit was issued, however the application is still under review by the ACOE. Due to the volume being dredged, the ACOE must seek approval from National Marine Fisheries. The Consultants are making every attempt to work with ACOE and NMF to expedite the process. Johnson Engineering has completed the Construction Plans and is in the process of revising the bid specs. After initial Staff review some modifications were recommended to the original submittal. Upon the receipt of the ACOE permit this project will go out to bid for construction.

Suncoast Waterway: The dredge project has been completed. The new marking of the channels is complete. Project awaiting certification by Engineer of Record.

Stump Pass:

The FDEP issued their formal second RAI response to the County. CEC and the County are working to respond including minor drawing edits, minor changes to the biological monitoring program, and formal public noticing and erosion control line process for sand placement and terminal groin installation on the Stump Pass Beach State Park. The RAI Response is complete, undergoing internal qa-qc review, and will be submitted within the week.

Coordination with ACOE is ongoing. The Engineering Section in Jacksonville will begin their technical review of the terminal groin design; CEC has met with their Chief and expects this review to go smoothly. The ACOE has submitted the permit documents to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review on potential impacts to historical and cultural resources. It is noted that the Consulting Team included a marine archaeologist who assisted with the design elements to avoid such impacts. The USFWS is actively working on the new Biological Opinion for the Project. It is noted that the Red Knot was recently listed on the T&E species list, thus the new BO will have to review the Project for migratory birds, Piping Plover, and Red Knot as well as sea turtles. The NMFS consultation was initiated by the ACOE Fall 2014 and the County and CEC are working to identify their review period.

The County and CEC are developing the 2015 scope of services for the beach and inlet program including quarterly condition surveys to be more proactive and address the navigation interests timely. This will be on the BCC agenda on March 10th.

The County is actively working to renew the original project's easements with specific beach front property owners for temporary construction and other access needs. Further, the County is seeking to request temporary construction easements from the beachfront property owners outside the original project limits, specifically from the State Park Beach to the County Beach Park on Manasota Key.

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February 28, 2015

Discussion is ongoing with regard to expanding the County's overall beach management program to include Manasota Key up to the County line. Residents have contacted the County and CEC in regard to beach erosion issues. This topic will be discussed at the March Beaches and Shores Committee Meeting.

Dayboards: Staff is continuing to replace non-reflective dayboards as needed.